

From: jdat4@comcast.net
To: "Spencer at" <jason.spencer@house.ga.gov>
Cc: jdat4@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 12:21:21 PM
Subject: Port of St. Marys

Mr. Spencer,

There should be no barge port at the Gilman-Durango paper mill site. Industry would be inappropriate. My husband, John Bowen, and I believe it should be assessed as a Super Fund site. When the toxins are safely removed, the wetlands and North River will be protected. The mixed use zoning should compel property owners to bring the wells and the land contaminants up to human habitation standards. Now, four toxic towers remain; the applicant says is that residential isn't possible for 20 years...clean it up; remediation must be sought. Industrial use of the toxic site will further contaminate wetlands; dredging will dislodge industrial wastes that should have been removed from the St. Marys ecosystem..

There is historical, archaeological heritage in the Meeting St. area, which has not yet been designated Historic St. Marys. Descendants of slaves have found artifacts, about which I emailed St. Augustine City Archaeologist, Carl Halbirt. He states that St. Marys has the potential to develop some type of archaeological response to proposed construction concerning archaeological cultural markers. At the presentation last week, the lawyer representing Mr. Ragucci stated that historical rights to the North River would be taken from Camden County and the City of St. Marys. There goes the possibility of a Folk School which teaches African American heritage, furthers researching the last battle of 1812 on Point Peter, builds an observatory and small boat building shops or restoration carpentry; there should be facility for the study of marine and weather science of the Atlantic Ocean. There are endless opportunities for St. Marys, because we have the resources, not just a blighted old paper mill. I don't know if you attended the Feb. 18th town hall meeting, but many St. Marys citizens voiced these ideas; some put them online. I tried, but I wasn't able to post my opposition to rezoning industrial...a bad link, perhaps.

Some might say that building a barge port bordering a minority neighborhood is another example of how Southern industry marginalizes black communities. Since Katrina, the whole world knows this practice can result in flooding neighborhoods, as well as polluting streets just like Gallup, Seagrove, Bryant, Wheeler, and St. Patrick with light, noise, and toxins of an unknown nature. James Fallows' 1971 book, *The Water Lords*, is still being used to study the changing concept of *needing factories for economic benefit to awareness of the natural heritage of the South*. The state should not trade off Georgia's rivers and aquifers!

Our town should make it a mission to save coastal ecosystems; we should stand up proud to share our multiracial heritage. We need new city ordinance to mandate and

update the Health Department of Environmental control. We need ordinance so the 2nd oldest US city is preserved for living history. We should build on the ecotourism and the historical tourism we already enjoy. Respect our potential to resonate with environmentalists globally as we track the rich cultural heritage of this ancient coast.

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